

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Artist Thomas Kinkade Awarded Prestigious World Children's Center Humanitarian Award**

(Atlanta) – On Saturday, August 10, 2002 at the World Children's Center Fifth Annual Gala and Benefit Concert, world-renowned artist Thomas Kinkade was awarded the World Children's Center Humanitarian Award. Publix Super Markets Vice President Bob Moore presented the award. Publix Super Markets was last year's recipient. "It is with great enthusiasm and respect that Publix Super Markets, as last year's recipient, presents this year's award to Thomas Kinkade", said Bob Moore.

The World Children's Center Humanitarian Award recognizes regional, national or international businesses and individuals who are making an extraordinary contribution toward improving the welfare of children and their families. Award recipients will have:

- established record of service
- developed innovative approaches that promote capacity to duplicate
- reinforced the spirit of collaboration
- demonstrated long-term impact, and
- embraced "service to community" as part of their day-to-day activities and/or business practices.

The Award presentation was the highlight of the Fifth Annual World Children's Center Gala and Benefit Concert. The evening included a seated dinner for 500 individuals and a benefit concert presented by VoiceStream Wireless featuring Grammy Award nominee Jo Dee Messina.

"The World Children's Center Advisory Board had a difficult time selecting the award recipient, but as the Board reviewed the enormous investment of both time and financial support that the Thomas Kinkade Foundation has made across the country and around the world to children in families in the greatest of need, the decision was unanimous," said Dianne Kohler, Director of Partnership Development and Community Affairs.

Many companies supported and attended the Gala including: Publix Super Markets, Proctor and Gamble, VoiceStream Wireless, Quaker Oats,/Gatorade, Worldspan, Premier Benefits Group, Pepsi Cola Bottling Group, Sony Ericsson, Gold Kist, Nabisco, Arnall, Golden & Gregory, General Mills, Cousins Properties, SunRise Assisted Living, and Regal Cinemas.

The World Children's Center will serve children who are homeless, abused, orphaned and/or neglected for whom parental rights have been permanently severed. Children will first enter the Center between the ages of 2 and 8 and will live and grow at the Center through high school. In addition to a loving home, the World Children's Center will provide a myriad of services and programs that include accredited educational curriculum and facilities, the arts and humanities, a pediatric clinic and food distribution center, an International Humanitarian Research and Training Center, as well as sports and athletics, among others. These programs and services will play a role in enriching the lives of the children in ways never thought possible. The Center will break ground in October 2002 on 910 acres at Callaway Gardens, 70 minutes from Atlanta.

Bob Moore, Vice President Publix Super Markets, Atlanta Division (left) presents world-renowned artist Thomas Kinkade with 2002 World Children's Center Humanitarian Award. As the inaugural recipient of last year's 2001 World Children's Center Humanitarian Award, Publix Super Markets had the distinct honor of presenting Kinkade with this year's award. Kinkade was recognized for his enormous commitment of time, talent and treasure to families and children who are in the greatest of need across the country and around the world. Since its inception, The Thomas Kinkade Foundation has donated millions of dollars to improving the lives of children and youth.